

**F**

127

.G3B8



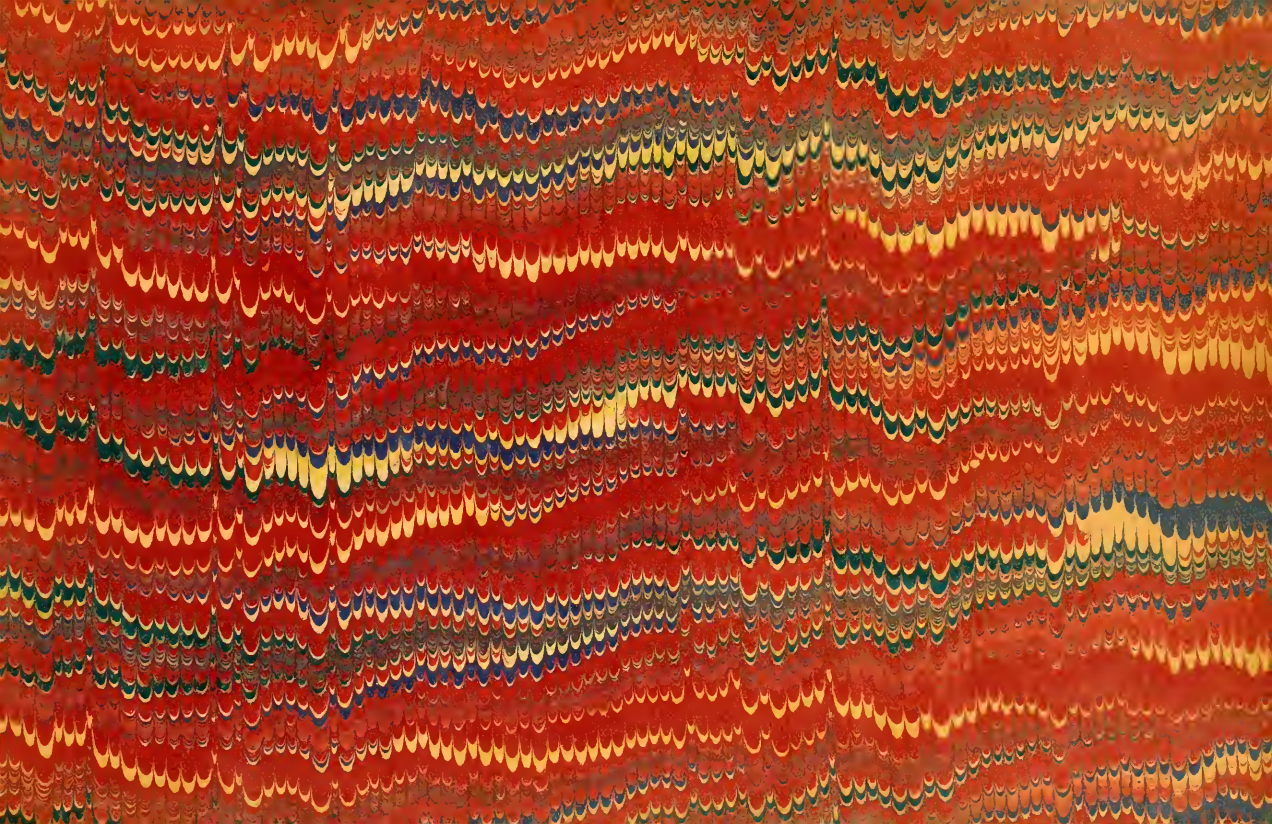
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Chap. 1111 Copyright No.       

Shelf. C. 1. B. 2

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

















LAKE  
GEORGE.



Bits of  
Lake George Scenery

Chas. H. Possons, Publisher and Printer  
Glens Falls, N. Y.

Copyrighted 1896

AUG 1 1896

47-13

6

675

# Lake George

Lies at the head of the Valley of the St. Lawrence, extending southward through Vermont and New York, and reaching nearly to the Hudson River. It is the largest and most easterly of the Adirondack lakes, and is thirty-five miles long. It is so divided, however, by clusters of islands and overlapping promontories as to give the impression of a succession of lakes, five in number. The lake is from one to four miles wide. The broadest part is south of the Narrows, while it attains its greatest depth at the base of Deer Pasture Mountain. The surface is dotted by more than 200 islands. The lake is elevated about 346 feet above tide-water, and 247 feet above Lake Champlain, the receptacle of its surplus water, which passes over two picturesque falls. Lake George has about one hundred miles of shore, and the number of hotels and boarding houses equal its length. These accommodate about 5000 people.

For boldness and beauty of outline the shores of Lake George are unrivalled. The lake is surrounded by high mountains which, in many instances, rise abruptly from the water's edge, and attain an altitude of more than two thousand feet, clothed with beautiful foliage. The renown of its rare beauty has spread throughout the world, and thousands yearly come to view its charms, and go away to praise them. Surrounded on all sides, except at the outlet, by beautiful hills and steep, rugged mountains, it receives from their springs and brooks an unfailing supply of water that is sufficiently sparkling and pure to justify the name—St. Sacrament—which the lake originally received.

As with the scenery, so with its historic associations, in which no lake can be richer. There is

hardly a spot, either on land or water, that has not been the scene of some warlike exploit or heroic adventure. Forming in colonial times a part of the great highway between Canada and New York, it was often the chosen battle-ground of the French and English, who, in connection with the hostile Indian tribes, waged a barbarous war on each other. Often the lake was traversed by the soldier, the savage and the monk. Hither came the brave Montcalm, the pious Father Jogues, the good Roubaud, Rigaud, St. Ours and Courcelles, together with Howe, Lord Amherst, Putnam, Rogers the Ranger, Johnson, Williams, "King Hendrick," Stark, and a multitude of others who are invested with historic renown. The story of their deeds contain all the elements of romance.

It is also interesting to be reminded of the fact that the French pushed their discoveries in this direction in early times, and that Champlain, who first heard of the Hudson River through the Indians, started on his way thither, intending to go by Lake St. Sacrament about the time that Henry Hudson was sailing up to Albany, which was four years before the Dutch took possession of New York, and eleven years before the English Puritans landed on Plymouth Rock.

Only a small portion of the lake is visible at a single view. There is no broad and striking expanse of water; it assumes more the character of a noble river, flanked by highlands. Winding majestically on its way among the verdant hills it gradually unfolds its wealth of beauty, surprising and delighting the tourist at every advance by some new and exquisite scene. The passage up or down the lake presents an ever-varying panorama of beautiful and distinct views. Sometimes the mountains rise abruptly from the banks; at others quiet valleys, hollowed among the hills, reveal the grand proportions of more distant



heights. The numerous islands—popularly supposed to equal the number of days in the year—add beauty to the scenery of the lake. Some are of considerable size ; some are rugged cliffs, crowned with shrubs or meagre vegetation, while others are low, bare rocks, or mere points.

The existence of Lake George was first made known to the Europeans by the French. In July, 1609, Samuel de Champlain ascended the St. Lawrence in company with a party of Hurons and Algonquins and sailed across the lake which now bears his name. Champlain was told of Lake George by the Indians, and it is mentioned in the reports of that bold explorer, but Champlain never saw the lake itself. The first white man who is known to have seen Lake George was Father Jogues. May 29, 1646, he was on his way to the Mohawk country to perfect a treaty. He arrived in a canoe at the outlet of the lake on the eve of the festival of Corpus Christi and named it *Lac du St. Sacrement*—Lake of the Blessed Sacrament. By the Iroquois it had been known as *Andiatorocte*, which meant the Tail of the Lake, *i. e.*, the place where Lake Champlain closes. "Horicon" is a fanciful title given to the lake by Cooper, who objected to the name it now bears. In 1755 General Johnson, afterward Sir William Johnson, visited the lake with several tribes of Indians and a small army, designed to operate against Crown Point and repel the aggressions of the French, who were preparing to assert their claim to a large part of the country. Immediately on his arrival Johnson changed the name of the lake and ordered that it should in the future be known as Lake George, "not only," as he said, "in honor of his majesty, but to ascertain his undoubted dominion." This change was one that must ever be regretted, since no more beautiful or appropriate name could be suggested than that given by the devout Father Jogues, by which it was known for 109 years.

# Prospect Mountain

Rises 1800 feet above Lake George and about 2200 feet above tide-water. Its summit is reached by the finest inclined cable road in the country, which starts from the village of Caldwell. Cars run every half hour. The view from the summit of Prospect is magnificent. At your feet lies the village of Caldwell, while half of Lake George, dotted with green isles and fenced in by mountains, stretches away before the sight until lost in the haze, out of which Black Mountain looms, apparently barring the way. To the south is seen the Hudson River and the bustling village of Glens Falls, while to west and north is a multitude of mountains—peak beyond peak and brood beyond brood.

Caldwell, at the foot of Prospect, is the most important village on Lake George. It is the county-seat of Warren County. Other villages or hamlets along the lake are Bolton, Huletts, and Hague.

One may spend many days in excursions about Caldwell, and each trip will open new delights and interest. The ruins of forts will entice the historically inclined, as will also the wrecks of vessels, sunk during the early wars, which may be seen in times of low water near the steamboat wharf.



Lake George from Prospect Mountain

# Fort William Henry Hotel...



The Fort William Henry Hotel is the largest hostelry at Lake George, and it is the most palatial of any. The surrounding grounds embrace thirty acres, tastefully laid out and embellished. The hotel is 334 feet long and has a piazza twenty-five feet wide with Corinthian columns thirty feet in height. Upon the hotel grounds are the ruins of Fort William Henry, and but a short distance away are the ruins of Fort George. The latter, although in a most dilapidated condition, due in part to the burning of part of its walls for lime, is still a picturesque ruin. It is star-shaped, and stands on a slight eminence, surrounded by lofty hills. It was built by General Amherst in 1759, and must have been a difficult position to carry by assault in those days.

The outline of Fort William Henry is more or less discernible, especially the salient angles abutting on the lake, and in the water below are fragments of the wharf where boats were moored and loaded. The embankments and fosse of the fort were fourteen feet, and the barracks were built of wood, upon a limestone foundation. Seventeen cannon, great and small, besides several mortars and swivels, were mounted on the fort.



Fort William Henry Hotel

The...

## Lake House

•

•

•

Occupies the oldest site of any hostelry on the lake. The building is three hundred feet long, three stories, and has front and back piazzas. The house stands eighty feet above the lake, and a magnificent lawn, shaded by giant trees, slopes gradually to the water's edge. Upon the lawn and across the boulevard from the hotel are several handsome cottages.

The grounds around the village of Caldwell in the vicinity of the Lake House are full of mementoes of the past, and relics of the French and English wars are frequently found. In excavating, the laborer's spade uncovers the grave of both soldier and savage, who often found promiscuous sepulture. Fragments of bombshell, together with a variety of souvenirs of a similar character, are often dug up.





LAKE HOUSE LAWN



NORTH FROM  
LAKE HOUSE DOCK



— LAKE HOUSE AND BOULEVARD —

Steamers on

Lake George...

• • •

The Lake George Steamboat Company operates the regular passenger steamers on Lake George, connecting with the railroad. The Horicon of this line can make twenty miles an hour. Its length is 203 feet, hold 8½ feet, beam 30 7-10 feet (52 feet over all), and is 640 tons burden. The Horicon accommodates 1000 passengers.

The Ticonderoga is 172 feet long over all, 28 feet beam and nine feet hold.

The Mohican makes regular daily trips from Caldwell and intermediate landings to Paradise Bay.



STEAMER MOHICAN  
IN PARADISE BAY

Fleet of Lake George Steamboat Co.



The Ticonderoga Approaching Caldwell



The Marion House

## The... Marion House

The Marion House is on the west shore, six miles from Caldwell. It is one of the largest hotels on the lake, thoroughly modern, and has charming surroundings. In front of the house, about forty rods from the shore, Mt. Mansfield, the highest peak in Vermont, can be seen on clear days. East, one views Canoe Islands, Long Island—the largest island in the lake—a fine stretch of water, and Pilot Mountain on the opposite shore. To the north is a comparatively unobstructed view of the “Narrows.” This outlook is presented on next page. The distant peak at right of picture is Black Mountain. The nearer eminence to the right is Shelving Rock, at the base of which is the entrance to the “Narrows.” The rounded-top island is Dome Island, the highest island in the lake. The elevation beyond and to the left of Dome is Tongue Mountain. To the west of this mountain is Ganouskie, or Northwest Bay, an arm of the lake that extends for a distance of five miles. West of Dome Island is the hamlet of Bolton Landing, on a pretty bay.





North from the Marion House

Bolton...

and

The...Narrows

•  
•  
•

Bolton is one of the finest portions of the lake, and second only in size to Caldwell, ten miles distant. There is no point on the lake where the views are more varied. To the southward is Pilot Mountain, nearly opposite is Buck Mountain (locally known as Deer Pasture), rocky and nearly bare at the summit, as is also Shelving Rock and Black Mountain, farther north.

Diagonally across the lake from Bolton is Fourteen-Mile Island, the excursion point of the steamboat company. At this point the shores of the lake approach each other, and the space between is nearly filled up with clusters of islands of various shapes and sizes, so that the steamer is obliged to wind carefully through. At a distance no passage can be seen, and the islands, covered with thick foliage, resemble a tongue of land stretching across the lake, forming what often appears like an impassable barrier. At first you look in vain for islands. On a nearer approach the passage widens, and little rifts in the woods here and there open like celestial gates.

In passing through the Narrows one is in the very heart of the lake, surrounded on every side by scenes that delight the eye. It is the charm of the islands that there is no monotony, and the Hundred Island Archipelago may be most fittingly termed the Acadia of this most interesting of lakes.



Northeast from Bolton



The Harrows from Shelving Rock



South from Summit of Shelving Rock



Among the Islands





Paradise Bay

"rangers," as they were called, proceeded from point to point in small parties, camping and fighting as they went. In mid-summer the islands are tenanted by campers and the evening illuminations are grand.

Paradise Bay is just out of the Narrows, on the east side. It is a most enchanting spot, and well named. The bay is locked to the large lake steamers.

The islands of Lake George are the property of the State, excepting Tea, Diamond, Canoe, Long, Elizabeth, Recluse, Three Brothers, Dome, Belvoir, Hiawatha, Leontine, Green, Crown, Fourteen-Mile, Turtle, Oahu and Harbor Islands.

Many of the islands have been occupied by parties during the summer season for years, and in some cases considerable money has been expended in buildings, etc. The work of exploring the islands of Lake George is one that might well occupy the most of an ordinary vacation.

Between the years 1755 and 1760 scouting among the islands was almost a distinct branch of military profession, and the

# Black Mountain

•

•

•

Black Mountain has an altitude of 2661 feet. It is banded around its sides with alternate lines of maple, pine and birch, which thin out by degrees as they rise, until, two-thirds of the way up, the bare rocks chiefly appear, while the top of the mountain stands out completely divested of verdure, dark, threatening and bare. The view from the summit is one of surpassing beauty. From this elevation, besides the lake at one's feet, Champlain stretches away to the north; in the south may be seen the Hudson; in the northwest are the Adirondacks, and away in the east are the Green Mountains of Vermont. Inland it is flanked by two prominent truncated cones, which dip suddenly to the plains below towards Lake Champlain. Running westerly from these knobs the ridge rises into a precipitous dome when it reaches Lake George, and, curving gradually but rapidly downwards, forms a magnificent descent toward the water till it reaches a more gentle slope, which again terminates in a precipice that is washed by the waters of the lake. Black Mountain, by the force and vividness of its form, adds a certain grandeur to almost every prospect of Lake George, and elevates the least interesting view into the real of the ideal.



Black Mountain

## Historic Islands

Near the base of Black Mountain are Floating Battery Islands. In a little bay on the south of the southernmost island are the remains of two floating batteries, built to accompany an expedition against Ticonderoga in 1758.

In the center of the lake just beyond what is shown on next page, are the Harbor Islands, a group collected in enchanting confusion. During the border wars, the Harbor Islands were the scene of a bloody conflict between the English and the Indians. The Indians surprised the English in camp, who, panic-stricken, took to flight. The fleet canoes soon overtook the heavy barges, and a slaughter followed. Of the English, 131 out of 400 were killed; nearly all the rest were taken prisoners, twelve only escaping.



Beyond the Narrows

## Sabbath Day Point



Sabbath Day Point is situated like a barrier between two portions of the lake, each of which possesses distinct features. To the south the eye takes in Hulett's, Black and Tongue Mountains, and numerous islands. To the north the scene is quite reversed, and nothing but the broad lake appears. From its shores the hills every where recede and no islands break the view.

The first mountain seen at the right of picture is Bloomer, the second is Deer's Leap. Viewed from Sabbath Day Point they present the same general outline and are known as Twin Mountains. Deer's Leap is so called from the fact that a deer pursued by a hunter leaped from the precipice overhanging the lake and was literally impaled alive on a sharp-pointed tree below.

A short distance from the steamer landing are the "Indian Kettles," round holes in the solid rock, close to the water's edge, varying in size from a pail to a hogshead. It is averred that these holes were made by the Indians for pounding and cooking corn. Fires were built on the rock and cold water applied until the surface cracked; the pieces of rock were removed and the process repeated until the required depth was obtained.



Sabbath Day Point Looking South

## St. Anthony's Nose

St. Anthony's Nose is a striking headland extending along the north side of the broad Blair's Bay. By sailing well into the bay a profile of a face may be seen, looking towards the west from the perpendicular wall of the second mountain step. The profile cannot be seen from the regular route of the steamers. St. Anthony has a numerous nose, as there are three other places in the State that bear his name—one on the Hudson and two on the Mohawk.

Passing Anthony's Nose, the steamer turns a sharp angle and enters the fourth division of the lake, which is quite closed in, while no part of the lake has more individual traits of its own. Facing us are the vertical sides of Rogers' Rock Mountain. The smooth space that is entirely bare of vegetation, and sloping to the water at a very sharp angle is Rogers' Slide.



*SOUTH FROM NEAR ROGERS' ROCK HOTEL*



*ST. ANTHONY'S NOSE  
MOUNTAIN*



## Rogers' Rock : Mountain

Rogers' Rock Mountain is a very prominent object from the lake. It rises to a height of 800 feet. At the foot of the Slide the water is very deep. The mountain and slide received its name, it is alleged, from the fact that Rogers the Ranger was surprised here by Indians, and made his escape on the ice. It is told that in the winter of 1757 Rogers was surprised by some Indians while on a scout. Shod with snowshoes, he eluded pursuit, and coming to the top of the slide saved his life by an ingenious device. He threw his accoutrements down the slide to the ice, unbuckled his snowshoes, turned himself around and put them on his feet again with the heels in front. Then retreating, he found a ravine down which he escaped and sped away on the ice. The Indians came to the spot, and seeing the double set of tracks concluded they were made by two persons who had thrown themselves down the cliff rather than fall into their hands. Finally, seeing Rogers disappearing in the distance, and believing that he slid down the cliff, they concluded that he was under the special protection of the Great Spirit and gave up the chase.



North from Summit of Rogers' Rock Mountain



Rogers' Rock Hotel and Mountain

This hotel is the farthest north of any on Lake George. It is situated on a rocky eminence, and is 110 feet above the water. The mountain can be ascended by a path leading from the hotel. On the summit is an observatory, from which a wide range of mountain and lake scenery is obtained.

There is a simplicity and grandeur in the

beauty of this part of Lake George that captivates. The outlines are drawn with a firm hand, in long, broken curves, and the eye is occupied with masses rather than with details, while the height of the shores and the absence of islands make it seem like the bowl of a vast sunken crater, into which the sea has been turned. In no part of Lake George is the water more beautifully blue.



Rogers' Rock Mountain, from the North





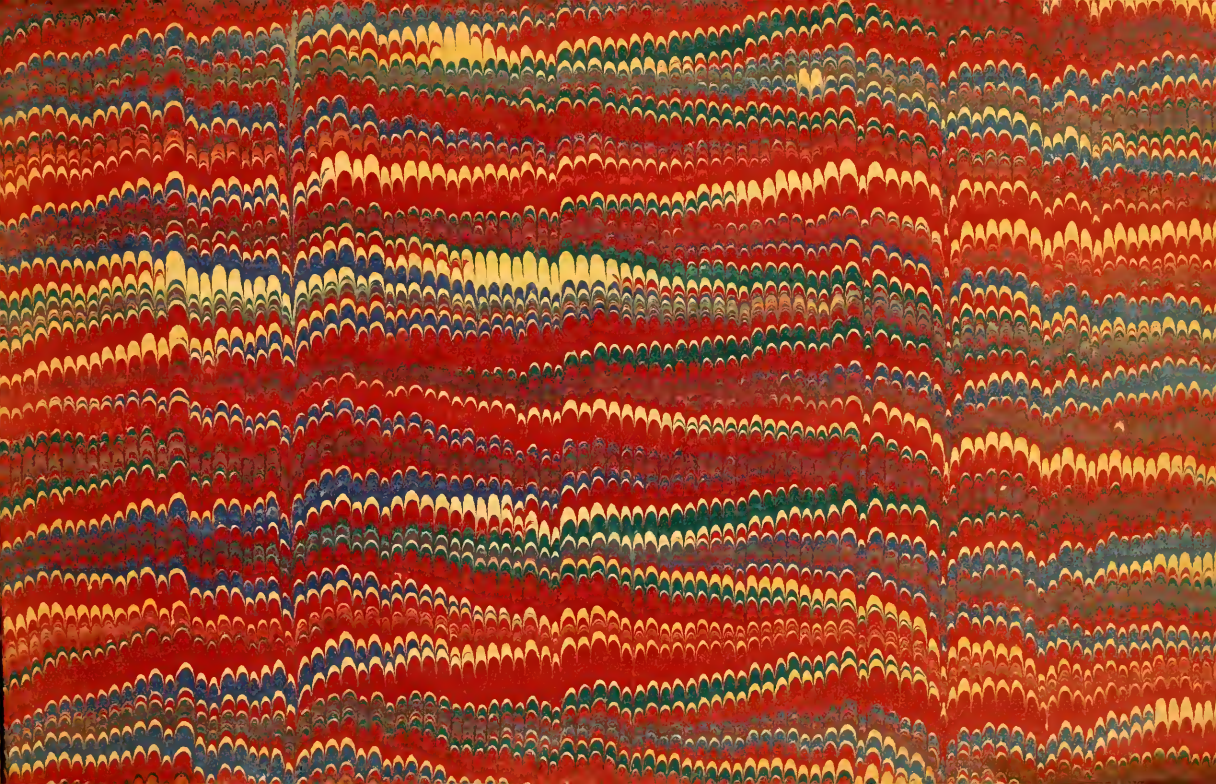






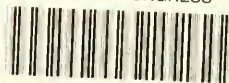








LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 107 616 4